

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 005889 POSS DUPE  
ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 EB-07 ISO-00 OES-06 IO-13 EA-09 ACDA-10 DODE-00  
/046 R

DRAFTED BY COMM/NOAA/EM:WHKEENAN  
APPROVED BY EA/ANP:CASQUIRE  
COMM/NOAA/IA1:GDHUGHES  
COMM/NOAA/EM6:RJFLEMING

-----120000Z 009618 /62

P 112049Z JAN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMCONSUL SYDNEY PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 005889

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: WMO, TPHY

SUBJECT: BALLOON FLIGHTS

1. THE U.S. NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINIS-  
TRATION, UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE IS PLANNING A  
SMALL ONE-TIME RESEARCH BALLOON TEST FROM CHRISTMAS IS-  
LAND, AUSTRALIA IN SUPPORT OF A MAJOR INTERNATIONAL EX-  
PERIMENT IN 1979. THIS EXPERIMENT, CALLED THE FIRST  
GARP GLOBAL EXPERIMENT (FGGE) WILL ATTEMPT TO PROVIDE  
A DATA BASE FOR LONG-TERM PREDICTION OF GLOBAL WEATHER.  
THE PURPOSE OF THE BALLOON TEST FROM CHRISTMAS ISLAND IS  
TO DETERMINE THIS ISLAND'S SUITABILITY AS A POSSIBLE  
LAUNCH SITE FOR FGGE.

2. APPROXIMATELY 3 OR 4 BALLOONS MUST BE LAUNCHED IN THE  
JANUARY OR FEBRUARY TIME FRAME TO GIVE AN INDICATION OF  
WIND PATTERNS FROM CHRISTMAS FOR THE FINAL EXPERIMENT.  
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THE BALLOONS ARE SIMILAR TO THE GHOST BALLOONS WHICH THE  
U.S. HAS FLOWN FROM CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND SINCE THE  
EARLY 1970'S. THEY ARE APPROXIMATELY FOUR METERS IN  
DIAMETER AND HAVE A THOUSAND GRAM INSTRUMENT PACKAGE.  
THEY WILL STAY ALOFT FOR APPROXIMATELY 4 OR 5 DAYS AT  
WHICH TIME AN AUTOMATIC CUT-DOWN SYSTEM FOR SELF-DES-  
TRUCTION WILL ACTIVATE. THE BALLOONS WILL MEET ALL

EXISTING FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION SPECIFICATIONS FOR  
UNMANNED RESEARCH BALLOONS (FAR 101).

3. REQUEST YOU OBTAIN CLEARANCE FROM THE AUSTRALIAN  
GOVERNMENT FOR LAUNCHING BALLOONS FROM CHRISTMAS ISLAND.  
ALSO, PROVIDE YOUR SUPPORT FOR ANY CUSTOMS ARRANGEMENTS  
NECESSARY. PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH  
THE AUSTRALIAN BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY, CONTACT DR. JOHN  
ZILLMAN, TELEPHONE AREA CODE 03-662-0311. ALSO, BASED ON  
OUR PROJECTED WIND TRAJECTORIES, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR  
BALLOONS TO OVERFLY AUSTRALIA. REQUEST YOU SECURE  
OVERFLIGHT PERMISSION FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT.  
FLIGHT ALTITUDE DURING OVERFLIGHT WILL BE 47,000 FEET.  
THIS IS ABOVE ALL SUBSONIC COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT TRAFFIC  
AND BELOW SUPERSONIC FLIGHT LEVELS. BALLOON IS STRICTLY  
FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, CARRIED OUT UNDER CONTRACT TO  
THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION BY THE  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH IN  
BOULDER, COLORADO, AND CARRIES ONLY EQUIPMENT FOR DETER-  
MINING BALLOON POSITION AND A TIMER FOR AUTOMATIC CUT-  
DOWN.  
ROBINSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RESEARCH, WEATHER SATELLITES, METEOROLOGICAL DATA  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Drafter:** WHKEENAN  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Office:** ORIGIN COME  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3622996  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** BALLOON FLIGHTS  
**TAGS:** TPHY, OCLR, US, AS, WMO  
**To:** SYDNEY  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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